

## Park and Recreation Meeting

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kacie Fahey. Present were Kacie Fahey, Amanda Stender, Nicole Bower, Josh Lindgren, Eric Hanson, Charles Seipel-Teng and Dawn McCracken.

Connor Cox, with Bolten and Menk, attended as a guest to present the Park Plan Survey results. The pedestrian & bicycle plan is being funded through a grant program. This plan is meant to develop a vision for future connected walking and bicycle trails throughout the city. A review of existing trails, sidewalks, and street crossing conditions was conducted. While there are many well served areas on our 12 miles of trails, there are many gaps without connection.

The main feedback for area of concern is the challenge of safely crossing Highway 3. Other community members commented on the gaps in trails and the abrupt end to many. The community survey was held at Food Truck Night (60 responses) and Celebrate Empire. There was also an online survey on the project webpage shared across social media and the quarterly newsletter.

Common request included safe crossing for Highway 3 and more trails through neighborhoods that would get kids directly to parks. The plan will focus on crossing improvements with marked crosswalks, curb extensions and lighting at high traffic areas. Coordination with MN DOT will be needed during planning

The proposed trails network plan is on an overall 15–20-year vision and creates a framework for how to get there over time, in a phased improvement. Connor went over future policy and code recommendations to help support the various enhancements and changes needed to the rails. This plan will prioritize equity and safety for all community members and their ability to access our parks and trails.

The Farmington Rotary requested we display the sign for the Brews and Backroads Festival at Stelzel Fields for the event on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The Rotary is a 501-C non-profit who have been working to partner more with the City to help serve our community. The Commission were all in favor of granting the request.

The Empire Tree Lighting Ceremony is being planned for 6:00 pm on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. The Commission will discuss at the next meeting what ornament requirements will be for community members. An announcement with full details will be included in the upcoming Empire Fall newsletter. The meeting was adjourned.